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THURSDAY, May 22,2025

The Courier Leader

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Paw Paw to hold Memorial Day parade

PAW PAW - Paw Paw's 104rd annual Memorial Day services will be held Monday, May 27, with the annual parade starting at 10 a.m. from the Bistro 120 parking lot, via Michigan Avenue to the Veterans Memorial Park for services.

Following the services, a luncheon will be held at the American Legion Hall on Niles Street.

Decorating the area cemeteries (Almena, Antwerp, Waverly and Paw Paw Townships) with flags are currently underway. If a grave is missing a flag holder or flag, individuals may call Bob Adams at (269) 217-5765. They will be asked to give the location of the grave in the cemetery and the name on the marker. If a veteran's marker through the VA needs to be ordered, individuals may also contact Adams. Individuals will be asked to locate a discharge order to be able to order a marker.

Area towns to hold Memorial Day parades

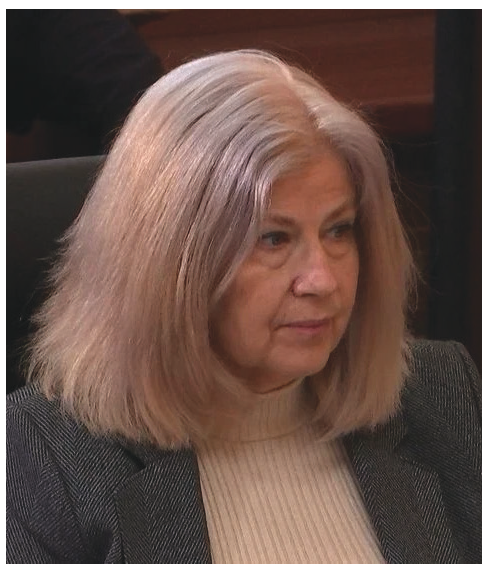
GOBLES - Gobles will hold a Memorial Day Parade at 9 a.m., Monday, May 26, that will travel down State Street (M-40). Lineup will begin at the Gobles High School parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

LAWRENCE - Lawrence will hold a Memorial Day Parade at 10 a.m., Monday, May 26, with a service to follow at Lawrence Village Park. Over 1,000 luminaries, representing Lawrence area military veterans, will be on display at Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, at approximately 8:30 p.m.

LAWTON - The Village of Lawton will hold a Memorial Day Parade, Monday, May 26, at 10 a.m. All participants are welcome - no application is necessary. Participants are asked to gather at 9 a.m. in the Lawton Fire Department parking lot. The parade lineup will start at the corner of 4th Street and Main Street, proceeding down Main Street, continuing on 2nd Street, and concluding at Oak Grove Cemetery, where a ceremony will follow. For more information or updates, residents are encouraged to contact the American Legion at (269) 624-1367.

MATTAWAN - A Memorial Day Parade will be held in Mattawan, Monday, May 26, at 10:30 a.m., with parade lineup at 10 a.m. at the Antwerp Township Hall. A service will follow in Mattawan Memorial Park, downtown, at 11 a.m.

Stermer sentenced to life without parole



Linda Stermer, a Van Buren County woman convicted of murdering her husband back in 2007, has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, a judge ruled Monday.

Stermer also received credit for 3,367 days already served.

"I came to this court filled with hope, hope that the questions which had been unanswered for so long would finally be answered, that this would finally be proven to all that the tragedy that took Todd from our lives was an accident and not a crime," Stermer read in her letter to the court. "While I stand before you, innocent and wrongfully convicted, I'm prepared for the battle ahead."

She continued, "My husband, my family, my daughters, friends and legal team, remain confident that this conviction will also be overturned."

Stermer was found guilty of killing her husband, Todd, in 2007 after their home was found burned to the ground, and he was found with severe burns and lacerations to his head.

Investigators also found Todd's blood on the bottom of the Stermers' van, leading them to believe she had hit him with the car.

Stermer's three-week trial in March and April involved forensics, fire analysis and personal accounts from her friends and neighbors, all of which explored her actions before and after the fire.

Stermer's three sons also took the stand after being the last people to see their father alive. Each said they believed Linda Stermer was guilty of murder, and they no longer consider her their mother.

The prosecution pointed to what they called inconsistent statements about what happened in the months following the fire.

Stermer's defense, however, stated insurance investigators rushed to blame Stermer for the fire that burned her house down, and that they went on a "witch hunt" against her.

Stermer was previously convicted of first-degree murder in her first trial in 2010.

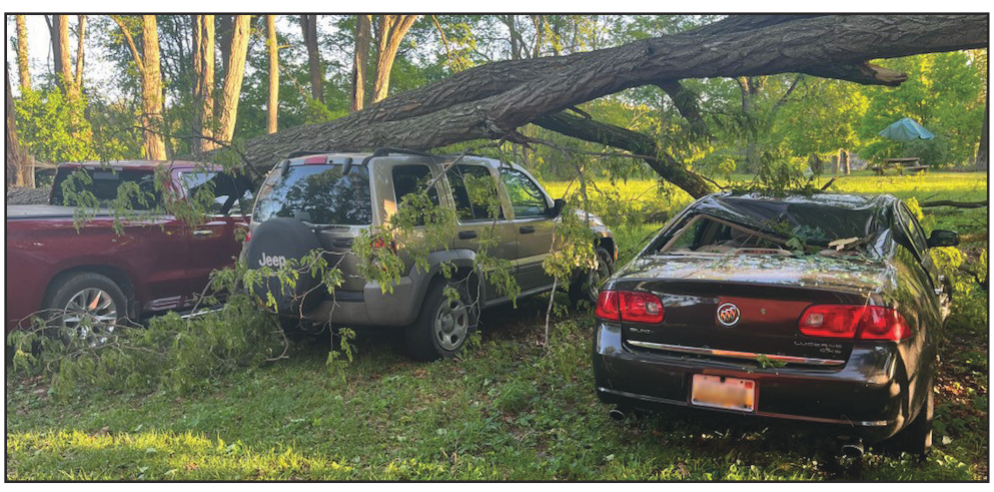
However, that conviction was thrown out in 2018 after an appeals court ruled her defense attorney, current Kalamazoo County Prosecutor Jeff Getting, provided ineffective counsel and the prosecution misrepresented her testimony.

Jurors deliberated for seven hours on April 11 before finding Stermer guilty on both murder charges.

High Winds knock down Carnegie Center Christmas Tree

Following a late Thursday night and early Friday morning storm that knocked out power to many Van Buren County residents, the Paw Paw Community Christmas Tree that had been a fixture at the Carnegie Center, located on Kalamazoo Street, fell victim to rain and high winds reported at 70 to 75 mph, during the storm.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod



Rain and high winds wreaked havoc throughout Van Buren County late Thursday night and early Friday morning, May 15 and 16, causing power outages that continued for more than four days to some areas. Van Buren County Road Commission workers, area village and city department of public workers, fire departments, first responders, area police departments, and area residents were kept busy removing fallen trees and tree limbs from roadways and yards. Several businesses in downtown Paw Paw were closed until Sunday morning due to power outages.

Courier-Leader photos/ Paul Garrod
Courtesy photos/ Ken Thompson

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2ND FRONT PAGE

170-year-old tree toppled, Museum spared

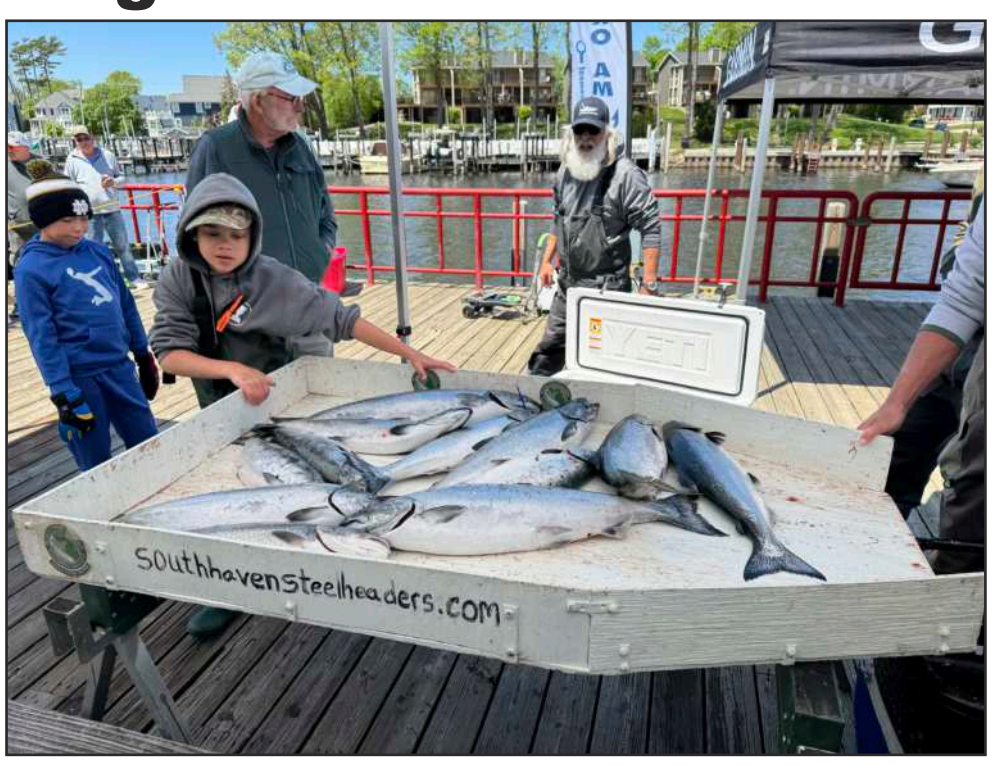
by Tom Renner

The Thursday night storm that swept thru southwest Michigan toppled an iconic 175-year-old fir tree outside the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum on South Bailey Avenue in South Haven. Miraculously, the tree fell just short of the museum building clipping a gutter but heavily damaged a fence and outdoor patio furniture. The Bailey Museum, owned by the City of South Haven, is a registered National Historic Site and considered one of the oldest standing homes in South Haven. It was built in the early 1850s and was the birthplace and childhood home of Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, Jr. who is considered America's "Father of Modern Horticulture". The tree was believed planted by Dr. Bailey.

It is with great sadness that the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum & Gardens Board of Trustees announced the death of the 170 year old Norwegian Spruce that has stood stalwart, protecting the Bailey Homestead, for over 5 generations on Bailey Avenue. The icon on the south lawn succumbed to the high winds last Thursday crashing to its death sometime during the evening of May 15th.

Our Liberty Hyde Bailey, who grew up on the Museum grounds, and an additional 78 acres adjacent to the house, became an expert Botanist, developed the term 'Horticulture' to advocate the combination of Botany and Agriculture. He earned the revered title of "The Father of Modern Horticulture" as a result of his wide range of knowledge, influence, and social improvement initiatives. He had the opportunity to watch the Tree for over 17 years on the homestead. In the stories about the house and trees, Liberty Hyde Bailey Sr, climbed the tree in his later years, when it grew above the house line to trim the top of the tree. This was to maintain the wind reaching the windmill which pumped water. Bailey Sr and his wife also enjoyed the swing in the shade of the tree.

Anglers have successful day in steelheaders pro-am



by James Windell

The sun sparkled off the water of Lake Michigan as 42 fishing boats left Black River on Sunday, May 18, 2025. Both amateur and professional anglers were headed out in the big lake to compete for trophies and prizes in the 40th annual South Haven Steelheaders Pro Am Tournament.

Although the tournament was reduced to one day because the scheduled first day, Saturday, May 17, was cancelled due to high winds and strong waves, Sunday was a less choppy day. And the results proved that.

"It was a very successful day," said Rich Chapman, President of the South Haven Steelheaders Association. "A lot of the boats came in and said it turned out to be a very nice day out there. A little chop on the water helped to get action on the lures. And all the boats caught fish."

Chapman said that the primary focus of this event is to obtain fish for the August Fish Boil, which is the main fundraiser for the Steelheaders, a Chapter of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fisherman's Association. Even though the annual tournament this year was reduced from two days to one, the tournament is considered official if a total of three hours are fished either on Saturday or Sunday.

"Prizes are awarded based on the point accumulation during the fishing time that was available," explained Chapman.

This year's tournament, providing fishermen the opportunity to fish for Salmon, Lake Trout, Steelhead and Brown Trout, was sponsored by The Lodge in South Haven. Chapman said that they encourage all of the boats to leave their catch. As the boats were headed out on Sunday, Chapman said that "We'll be feeding around 1,000 people in August and we'll need over 800 pounds of fish." After all the boats were in and the fish were weighed, he said that they will be freezing more than 900 pounds of fish for their August fish boil.

The Tournament is open to any boat whose captain is a member of the Michigan Salmon and Steelhead Fishermen's Association, boats must be 19 feet or longer, and all boats must be equipped with VHF marine radio and GPS with a tracking capability. There are two separate divisions, the Pro and Amateur divisions.

Both pros and amateurs can choose to enter the Big Fish Contest or the Second Chance Tournament. Points are accumulated by each boat and 1st Place in the Pro division earns up to $10,000. First Place in the Amateur division earns a prize of up to $4,000. This year there were 17 pro boats and 25 amateur boats competing for the prizes.

The winning professional boat was Best Chance Too. Owned by Dave Engel, Chapman said that Engel has been a charter captain for many years. "He's one of the best tournament fisherman we've got," Chapman said.

The winning amateur boat was The One, a boat owned by Kabet Sterk. The anglers on The One also won the Big Fish contest by landing a Lake Trout that weighed just over 20 pounds. The winning Big Fish by the pros was a Lake Trout that weighed in at 19.42 pounds and was caught by an angler on The Escape, a boat owned by Randy King.

Chapman said that several fisherman complimented him after they came in on Sunday afternoon.

"We got great compliments from everybody," Chapman said. "They said how smooth the tournament runs and how we get the results up quickly. Most said the tournament was really done well."

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Mock Disaster held at Van Buren Tech

LAWRENCE - The annual Mock Disaster led by Van Buren Tech, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) center of the Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD), showcasing the power of hands-on, real-world learning through CTE, was held Tuesday, May 13, here.

This year's simulation involved a plane crash into a flea market, which resulted in massive fires, dozens of injuries, and widespread panic. As smoke filled the air and sirens blared, CTE students sprang into action, responding to the crisis in real-time. The event tested their skills, teamwork, and emotional control, providing one of the most realistic emergency training exercises in the state.

"Mock Disaster is not just a drill, it's a capstone experience that reflects the highest level of what we do in Career and Technical Education," said Andrea Robinson, Principal of Van Buren Tech.

"It allows students to fully apply what they've learned academically, technically, and emotionally and prepares them to step into high-demand careers with confidence and competence."

Students from multiple VBT programs: EMT, Fire Science Academy, Law Enforcement, Patient Care, and Cosmetology all worked side by side with local industry professionals and public safety agencies to coordinate the response. The event is all about being able to operate as part of a multi-agency response team seamlessly.

"This teaches us to stay calm, think fast, and work together across programs," said a Fire Science student. For EMT students, the scenario offered hands-on triage experience, sorting victims into categories based on the severity of injuries. When asked what advice they would give to future participants, a Law Enforcement student emphasized mental discipline, "It's overwhelming at first, but trust your training. That's what gets you through it."

Cosmetology students created hyper-realistic injury makeup, playing a crucial role in building the authenticity of the disaster scene. Meanwhile, Patient Care students assisted with patient stabilization.

Mock Disaster not only prepares students for technical careers but also reinforces leadership, communication, and decision-making under pressure.

The Career and Technical Education Department at Van Buren Intermediate School District equips students with the academic, technical, and employability skills needed to succeed in today's workforce. Through Van Buren Tech and its various programs, CTE empowers students to explore career pathways, earn certifications, and build real-world experience before graduation.

Van Buren Tech is home to VBISD's Career and Technical Education programming. Offering a wide range of career-focused training in areas such as health sciences, public safety, and more. Van Buren Tech connects students with instructors, industry professionals, and resources that prepare them for lifelong success.

Commissioners approve County Parks Commission's by laws

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

On Tuesday, May 13, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approved the Van Buren County Parks Commission bylaws, as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Commission was officially created in August 2022, under the authority of Public Act 261 of 1965 to guide the development, maintenance, and oversight of county parks. The Parks and Recreation Commission has developed a proposed set of bylaws intended to provide the formal structure for how the commission will operate, ensuring clear governance, accountability, and compliance with applicable laws.

The proposed bylaws define the commission's purpose and authority, including overseeing parks and recreation projects, recommending policies, supporting the county board in decision-making, and fulfilling other duties in support of county parks.

The bylaws specify the membership composition in accordance with statutory requirements, including representatives from the Road Commission, Drain Commissioner's office, Planning Commission, and seven members appointed by the County Board, and establishing term limits and attendance policies.

The bylaws further outline procedures for the election of officers, the setting of meeting schedules, compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and the use of Robert's Rules of Order for conducting business.

The bylaws allow for the creation of an executive committee and ad hoc committees to support the efficient operation of the commission and address specialized needs as they arise. The bylaws assign responsibilities such as providing budget recommendations, engaging the community, overseeing park property and related rules and submitting an annual report to the Board of Commissioners.

The bylaws require that any amendments be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Parks and Recreation Commission and subsequently by the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioners approved a $5,000 distribution to the West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court from the Specialty Court Reserve Fund.

Judge Baillargeon of Allegan County, on behalf of West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court made a presentation on April 22, during a Committee of the Whole meeting, requesting the distribution of $5,000 to support operational funding.

The $5,000 distribution will be paid from the Specialty Court Reserve Fund, which was established in 2017 for the purpose of filling funding gaps and supporting grant acquisition for the Van Buren County Specialty Courts.

The original balance of the Specialty Court Reserve Fund was $250,000, and the remaining balance is approximately $58,000.

Commissioners approved an amendment to the MERS Health Care Savings Program consolidating Divisions 300620, 300621, 300622, 300623, 300624, and 300625 into a single Division 300626.

Commissioners approved the Michigan Department (MDOT) Master Agreement 2022-0144 Amendment 1. MDOT issues Master Agreements every four years to transit agencies to make federal and/or state funds available for the costs of eligible projects, including operating expenses, bus purchases, and other capital investments. MDOT issued Amendment 1 to Master Agreement 2022-0144 to extend the term of the agreement by one year and to clarify and amend certain sections of the original Master Agreement. Approval of Amendment 1 will continue to ensure Van Buren County's eligibility to receive necessary federal and state transit funding for eligible projects.

Commissioners approved the third contract amendment with CPM Construction for $7,264 for the installation of an ADA-compliant sidewalk at the transit facility, with funding to be provided from previously approved transit project funds.

The transit facility extension project is nearing completion, and it has been identified that an ADA-compliant sidewalk is required at the new north door of the facility. The proposed sidewalk will connect the new north door to the existing sidewalk on the west side of the building, ensuring accessible pedestrian access in compliance with ADA requirements.

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Memorial Day parade to honor veterans in South Haven

By James Windell

South Haven's Jim McCloughan, a Medal of Honor recipient, will be leading the Memorial Day Parade and a cemetery ceremony for the 55th year.

The traditional Memorial Day Parade begins on Monday, May 26, 2025 at 9:00 am at Center Street and Michigan in downtown South Haven. After proceeding north on Center Street to Phoenix Street, the parade will go east to Bailey Street, and north to the Lakeview Cemetery entrance.

A ceremony at Lakeview Cemetery starts at 1:00 pm and features a main address by Jim "Doc" McCloughan followed by his singing of the song "Fallen Not Forgotten."

American Legion Post #49 Commander John Barkley says that this year's parade not only features Medal of Honor Recipient Jim McCloughan for the 55th year but also local veterans from American Legion Post # 49 and VFW Post # 667, South Haven Mayor Annie Brown, South Haven High School and Middle School Bands, SHEAS, Miss and Mister South Haven, their Court and the Blueberry Court, Local Scouts and many others.

"Jim McCloughan was awarded the nation's highest recognition for heroism, the Medal of Honor, July 31, 2017 by President Donald Trump for his actions of 'gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty' during the Battle for Nui Yon Hill in the Republic of Vietnam," says Barkley. "Risking his life and being wounded several times while saving the lives of at least ten soldiers during close combat fighting, 'Doc's' actions inspired his comrades from May 13 to 15, 1969. He received other notable awards including the Bronze Star Medal with 'V' device and Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Medical Badge, the Army Valorous Unit Award, the Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Battle Stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and Oak Leaf Cluster."

McCloughan was born in South Haven and grew up in nearby Bangor, Michigan, with a passion for sports and music. He was a four-sport varsity athlete at Bangor High School and went on to wrestle, play football and baseball at Olivet College. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and a teaching certificate in 1968, he accepted a teaching and coaching position with South Haven Public Schools. However, he was drafted into the Army at the age of 22 during his first year of teaching.

Following basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and then medical specialist training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where he earned the nickname Doc, McCloughan was deployed to Vietnam where he was assigned as a combat medic with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. His Vietnam tour was from March 1969 to March 1970.

When he came home from Vietnam, he returned to his teaching and coaching profession. After earning a Master of Arts in counseling and psychology from Western Michigan University in 1972, McCloughan taught sociology and psychology at South Haven High School until his retirement in 2008. Along the way, he earned numerous awards, including the Michigan Education Associations' 40 years of Service Award, the Wolverine Conference Distinguished Service Award for 38 years of coaching football and baseball in addition to 22 years of coaching wrestling. He was inducted into the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1993, Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 2003 and the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame 2008. He was also a Michigan High School Athletic Association wrestling official for 25 years.

Also, at 12 Noon on Memorial Day, at the South Haven City Hall on Phoenix Street, the U.S. Colors will be raised from half to full staff as honors to the Nation and to honor all U. S. Armed Forces dead from all U.S. wars. "Since this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam war, which officially ended on April 30, 1975, there will be the reading of the names of 2,654 Michigan Armed Forces personnel who died within the Vietnam Theater of Operations" says Barkley. Army veteran Craig Massey is leading this memorial event and extends a special invitation to Vietnam-era veterans and their families.

Following the Memorial Service at Lakeview Cemetery, American Legion Post # 49 Honor Guard will visit the South Haven Nursing Home, McDowell Cemetery, Stephenson Cemetery, Chambers Cemetery and Covert Cemetery to perform Flowers on the Mound and present a military salute.

In the event of rain and people are unable to gather for the parade, according to Barkley, there will be no parade or Lakeview Cemetery ceremony. "We will instead gather at Listiak Auditorium for a ceremony with the same program," Barkley says.

Family crashes in to downed tree, no one hurt

SHAES Friday morning responded to a crash in which a vehicle struck a tree that had fallen across 76th Street near County Road 380, South Haven Township of Van Buren County. Fortunately, the occupants, which included three children, were not injured. The driver reported his brakes failed when he attempted to stop.

Lawton approves bid for new HVAC systems for the CEM grant

Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

LAWTON – Lawton Village Manager Todd Hackenberg told te Lawton Village Council Tuesday, May 13, that a notice was put out regarding bids for new HVAC systems for the CEM grant. The village only received two bids, and he recommended the village council accept the less expensive option from Andy Egan Co. for $75,371.

The village council approved a motion to set a truth in taxation public hearing for Tuesday, June 10, at 7 p.m.

The council approved a motion to switch employee retirement from Retirement Solutions LLC to Modern Woodmen. Staff recommended the change to the village council, as it will provide less fees for employees over time, as well as better one on one support at a local level.

An estimate from Asphalt Restoration Inc. for $14,150 to repair both village-owned parking lots, as well as to repair a damaged berm on Concord Drive, was approved by the village council.

The council approved a motion not to hold second village council meetings for June, July and August unless needed. September's second meeting would be determined as the date draws closer.

The council approved a motion to accept estimates of $5,000 from Darr's Rentals for blight cleanup, with any extra debris found to be billed at $50/cubic yard.

The council approved a motion from Council President Josh Appleby to appoint Char Raber to a vacant council seat formerly held by Nicole Smith. Raber would complete a partial term and then would have to run for election in November 2026. Raber will be sworn in at the May 26 meeting.

During Citizen's Comments, Doug Lawrence, representing the Lawton Youth Softball and Baseball League, expressed the organization's appreciation that President Josh Appleby and President Pro-Tem Eric Dudek attending the opening day celebration, where they threw opening pitches. President Appleby said lights are on order for the complex. He said an end of the year tournament will be held on June 9.

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The council approved a motion to accept estimates of $5,000 from Darr's Rentals for blight cleanup, with any extra debris found to be billed at $50/cubic yard.

Village Manager Hackenberg reported that one of the downtown poles was hit on the corner next to Welch's. He said it will take eight to 10 weeks to get a new one installed because they are custom made. The village is working with the driver's insurance company. Hackenberg said the village has approximately $64,000 left in ARPA funds that has not been spent. It was initially budgeted for the Lawton Village Hall. Hackenberg said he received one quote and wanted to know if this is how the village council would like to see the funds spent, or if they would like to see something different done with the funds. The village council said they would like Hackenberg to look further into it, get photos and pricing.

Council member Judith Peterson said the village Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on June 3 for the Rental Inspection ordinance changes, as well as a public hearing for the cell tower provision rezoning. Information on what those changes are can be found in the village clerk's office.

Village Manager Hackenberg said the village Splash Pad is scheduled to open Friday, May 23.

"Hit and run" reported in Antwerp Township

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office deputies handled a hit and run incident in Antwerp Township. "A repo company was trying to hook up to a vehicle to repossess it when the people in possession of it jumped in it and took off from the scene. When they took off, they side swiped the repo truck," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott. The report will be sent to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Sheriff's deputies were investigating a larceny incident in the City of Gobles, and the suspect had warrants for her arrest. After the interview was conducted, she was arrested and lodged on the warrants.

"Detectives from our CID Unit recovered stolen property. Detectives met with an individual who was cooperative in the investigation and led them to all the property in question. The property was scattered at three different locations. Detectives recovered a stolen trailer from Paw Paw Honda, which was stolen a few months ago. A second trailer recovered was stolen in Paw Paw Township in December. Three stolen quads were recovered. Detectives called the quads' owner, and they were not even aware they had been stolen. All the recovered stolen property was returned to the owners. The investigation remains ongoing," said Sheriff Abbott.

A deputy on patrol stopped a vehicle pulling a trailer with an improper license plate on it in Antwerp Township. It was found that the trailer was stolen out of Kalamazoo County. The location where the trailer was stolen from also had three vehicles stolen. "Our detectives are now working with Kalamazoo County detectives and SCAR to work on recovering more stolen property/stolen vehicles," said Sheriff Abbott.

Deputies handled a domestic call in Geneva Township. It was found both parties were sisters living together and were intoxicated, which contributed to the argument. Nothing physical took place, only words being exchanged. They both agreed to not cause any more issues and sleep it off for the night. Deputies were not called back for anything further.

Deputies handled an alarm in Hartford Township. The abandoned house's door was open upon arrival. Deputies investigated the incident but found nothing out of place. The owners didn't report anything missing either. It appears at this point that when the alarm went off, the suspect fled the scene immediately.

Deputies assisted Kalamazoo Public Safety with traffic duties for the marathon. "We have assisted with that duty over the last few years. Kalamazoo reimburses our office for the deputies who work it," said Sheriff Abbott.

"I would like to personally thank the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors for the purchase of a dual floating PWC dock for our Marine Division. The dock will be used in our South Haven location so the two jet skis can be in the water for a quick response in case of an emergency. Ryan Servatius of South Haven spearheaded the request and was successful in receiving it. Thank you, Ryan, for your efforts on this, it is much appreciated and will be put to good use," said Sheriff Abbott.

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Author to give reading at Bangor library

Jeanette Van Norden (pen name Jeanette Huffman), will be returning to her hometown of Bangor, to host a reading of her memoir Finding Bonnie at the Bangor Branch Library on June 17 at 5:30 PM.

The memoir reflects on her upbringing in Bangor and follows her journey through the U.S. Air Force, spanning decades and continents—but always rooted in small-town Michigan values.

You can find her author page and books here: https://www.amazon.com/author/jeanette-huffman

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VIEWPOINT

State needs to have more control over spending

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

I shake my head at some of the shenanigans pulled by leaders we place in public office. Very few of them understand that the money that pays their salaries and funds the programs that run the government come out of our pockets. Maybe understand is not the correct word, maybe they just don't care.

If they did they would be more diligent on how our funds are spent. A case in point would be the $25 million that was granted to a local person in Clare to build a grandiose health park. The local person happened to work for House Majority leader at the time, also a Clare resident. Somehow, someway the bid was granted without seeking competitive bids.

Now if you know anything about Clare County, you know a $25 million project is very unusual. Developers might put together a $5 million or $10 million deal, but $25 million, that's not likely in a rural county of 30,000 population.

A lot has been written about this albatross, but it came to light again this week when the Attorney General filed 7 felony charges against the man, and law enforcement raided his home to search and arrest him.

This is just an egregious example. For too many years individuals have formed non-profits and then petitioned the state for funds, and on many occasions, have been granted them with essentially no oversite.

I remember owning the local newspaper in Hamtramck several years ago and visiting a non-profit in the community. The leaders bragged about how much their charity received from the state while surrounded by custom furniture and pocketing much of the money.

I was told in Detroit this happens all the time. The legislature feels Detroit non-profits are very deserving of our money because it is the state's biggest city and has the greatest need. I got no problem with that assumption, I just have a problem with the lack of controls.

Of course it is worse at the federal level. Legislators have no clue who is getting our money and what they are doing with it. Let's just say a lot of people have gotten rich from non-profit grants.

One of those who thought he might be one of the those, the Clare man, had allegedly used part of the $25 million grant money to buy cars and gold bars. Those items were confiscated by law enforcement in the raid.

The Clare man was a pillar of the community. Beyond being the top aide to the House Majority Leader, he was Executive Director of the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce. He was also elected to the Clare County Road Commission. He was not someone you would expect in a million years to defraud state government.

The fact that he almost got away with it, only because a hired hand-turned state's evidence, is a black mark on the state's ability to manage its budget. I really hope people lost their jobs over this. More importantly I hope the state manages their budget affairs more prudently.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

One of my favorite short stories is "The Verger" by Somerset Maugham. Hero Albert Foreman has held his parish post for decades before a new clergyman replaces the old and learns he's illiterate.

He doesn't need to know how to read to do his work; he worked around any challenges for years. Besides, the parishioners liked him and the work he did.

But the new minister hoped to turn his parish into a "society church" and it would not do to have an illiterate verger. Besides, Mr. Foreman was elderly and needed to be put out to pasture.

The new clergyman gave Foreman a month to learn how to read, but it didn't work out so he was out the door. Not even a sheet cake or farewell party.

Losing his job and income bothered him less than losing

his sense of value and identity. As he walked home that evening, he reached into his pocket for his pipe and tobacco but discovered the pouch was empty. He kept walking but there was not a tobacco store in sight.

That gave him an idea, so, to cut to the chase, he opened his own store. It was so successful he opened a second, and soon owned a chain of shops across London.

One afternoon, the bank manager asked Mr. Foreman about moving some of his savings into bonds that would earn him more money. He had all the paperwork ready for their meeting and gently pushed them across his desk to sign. Mr. Foreman pushed them back and explained, "I can't read or write."

The banker, astonished, asked, "Can you imagine where you would be today if you could read?"

"Yes, I would be the verger of St. Peters Neville Square," Mr. Foreman answered wistfully.

Until about 90 years ago, people worked as long as their health would allow it, or until they died. If they couldn't work and had gone through their savings, they relied on their families to care for them or moved to the county poor farm.

Then, as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal, the Social Security program was initiated, with a guaranteed but small pension starting at age 65. That year was chosen because actuarials determined that the average person lived until they were 68. Getting them out of the work force meant there would be more jobs for young people, and that would help return the country to prosperity. The program was billed as a reward for decades of hard work.

What was not considered is how so many of us find much of our identity through work. That seems to apply especially to men. From what I've observed, women tend to find their sense of identity through connections and relationships. If and when they retire, there are far more opportunities for them to network.

Men aren't nearly as successful in that department and end up being more lonely, which doctors say is bad for our health.

The 2022 Tom Hanks film "A Man Called Otto" deals with the social problems created when older people lose their sense of connection and self-value. Then come alive when they have something meaningful to do.

It is not surprising that many men, after dreaming and fantasizing about all the leisure time that comes with retirement, soon go back to work. The money is a bonus but the real benefits are intangible. It might be regaining the work relationships and connections, but more important it's knowing they still have value in this world.

I noticed it with some of my older friends who had been physicians at the Mayo Clinic. The mandatory retirement age was 65, no exceptions. When the Clinic realized one size does not fit all, they arranged part-time, non-tenured opportunities for older former employees. Everyone benefitted.

Mr. Leach, a custodian there, decided to take a different route. He had always said he was going to take up golf in retirement, but then changed his mind.

He put up a notice on the bulletin board at the Piggly Wiggly that he was available to mow lawns. He explained that he couldn't see much point in whacking away at a little white ball and then hiking after it. If he wanted to go for a walk, he'd rather push a mower, bring order out of chaos in a messy lawn, help people, and make some money. With a wink, he added, "under the table."

A friend of my parents had been a tool and die maker at a piston ring factory. A few months after he retired there, the plant rehired him as their part time fix-it guy. He knew the machinery and quickly could make repairs. Each job assignment was a measure of success and pride.

Another friend retired from working as an electrical engineer, realized at age 70 he was too young for this and became a math tutor. He doesn't work fulltime, but knows he is making a difference with young people struggling with geometry.

The money is not much, but he scrupulously invests half of it by taking his wife out every Friday for date night. The other half is set aside for a cruise in the winter. Mind you, that is not easy. Every year she has to pry him away from his work with a "Now hear this" message.

Another fellow saw a help wanted sign in the window of a wine shop, went in and told the owner he was available.

"Do you know much about wine?" the owner asked. "Not a lot," he replied, "but I know most of it tastes pretty good." He was not hired for his knowledge of wine, but for his people skills.

These recycled former retirees put all of their business and social skills, learned over decades, back to work. It gives them purpose and a reason to get up in the morning.

One older gentleman took a job stocking shelves at a store, and some of his friends looked down on him for it. One day one came through the store and asked, "How's it going, stock boy?"

"You know, I'm the most important man in this store," he replied. "If it wasn't for me, you'd never find what you want because the shelves would be bare."

"Work is the best kind of fun," my father used to say. He was right.

OBITUARIES

Paul Raymond Gladysz

Paul Raymond Gladysz, 66, of Paw Paw, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at his Maple Lake residence. In November 2022, Paul was diagnosed as being afflicted with Stage 4 prostate cancer and given six months to live. Never one to back down from life's challenges, Paul faced the cancer on his own terms under the care of oncologists and staff personnel who respected his commitment to maintaining quality of life. He maintained a relatively normal lifestyle throughout the past two and a half years since his diagnosis and passed away comfortably and unexpectedly in his sleep.

He was born Aug. 13, 1958, in Paw Paw, Michigan, the son of Arthur Gladysz and Ann (Ledesky) Gladysz.

Paul was a lifelong resident of Paw Paw, graduating from Paw Paw High School in the Class of 1976. Prior to attending high school, Paul was a student at St. Mary's Catholic School, Paw Paw, and served St. Mary's Church as an altar boy. He grew up and worked for decades at the family business, the Dyckman House. After his father passed away, Paul took over stewardship of the business. Along with his brother, Joe, they transformed the Dyckman House into the most popular gathering spot in the greater Paw Paw area. Paul was in the process of restoring and improving the building on the main four corners of town to continue its well over a century of history when the decision was made to sell the property.

Following his tenure at the Dyckman House, Paul continued to use his woodworking and carpentry skills in the modular home industry and as a self-employed craftsman. He thoroughly enjoyed and was very proficient at shooting pool and riding and working on Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Paul continued to participate in these endeavors until the day he was called home by his maker.

He is survived by his two sons, Benjamin Gladysz and Jacob Gladysz; mother, Ann Gladysz; sister, Bonnie (Gerald) Bass; cousins, Ken and Tim Gladysz and longtime friend, Chas Catherman.

Paul was preceded in death by his infant son, Andrew Gladysz; brothers, Eric and Joseph Gladysz and father, Arthur Gladsyz.

Family and friends were invited to visit on Tuesday, May 20, at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. A funeral service was held Wednesday, May 21, at the funeral home with the Rev. Ron Packer officiating. Paul was laid to rest at Saint Mary Cemetery, Paw Paw, immediately following the service.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to gather at Sporty's Pub & Veranda Grille following the cemetery service to share their remembrances and celebrate the life of Paul Raymond Gladysz.

Ernest Herbert Rose "Herb"

Ernest Herbert Rose "Herb", 82, passed away peacefully at home with family by his side on May 13, 2025. He was born on May 18, 1942, to Ernest and Annie Mae (Lowery) in Birmingham, Alabama.

Herb grew up in Alabama in his younger years before moving with his family to Lawton Michigan. He graduated from Lawton High School in 1960.

After high school, Herb joined the Marine Corps and was in active duty until 1970. Herb served in the Vietnam war and was very proud to be a Marine.

Herb married Veronica Krumrei in 1966 in Lawrence, Michigan. They were happily married for 58 years and had two daughters, Anna and Vicki.

After an honorable discharge from the service, Herb spent many years driving a semi for Motyka Trucking and TLC before retiring in 2012.

Herb enjoyed watching NASCAR, baseball and softball, and riding motorcycles. He also enjoyed spending time with his family and spending the winter months at their home in Florida.

Herb was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Annie Mae, sister, Wilma Abbott, and brothers, Raymond Rose and Malcolm Rose.

He is survived by his wife, Veronica; two daughters, Anna Rose (Rich), and Vicki Rose; and grandchildren, Stephanie Shinabery (Dakota Parsell), Erik Shinabery (Jessica Conkin), and Jennifer Oswalt; and great-granddaughter, Maddilynn Shinabery; as well as many nieces, nephews and relatives.

A visitation was held at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw on May 21.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or to Gentiva Hospice.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

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SPORTS

Gobles track team fourth

4x200m relay team L-R, Nathan Ray, David Sager, Steven Juarez, and Mason Mansfield.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles boys track team competed at the regional meet on Saturday, May 17 and finished 4th overall and sent the following athletes to the MHSAA State Finals in Hudsonville, Michigan on May 31.

Mason Mansfied qualified in the 100m, 200m dash, 4x100m Relay, 4x200m Relay, and 4x400m Relay. Nathan Ray qualified in the 4x100m Relay, 4x200m Relay, and 4x400m Relay.

Steven Juarez qualified in the 4x100m Relay, 4x200m Relay, and 4x400m Relay.

David Sager qualified for the 800m run, 4x100m Relay, 4x200m Relay, and 4x400m Relay.

Coal Otis qualified for the 4x100m Relay, 4x200m Relay, and 4x400m Relay.

Max Sager qualified for the 4x100m Relay, 4x200m Relay, and 4x400m Relay.

"It has been a very good season and the boys get ready to compete in the MITCA Team State Invitational on Saturday, May 24, at Hillsdale College," coach Marc Kline said. "They go into the meet as the 8th ranked team in Division 4. This is a type of meet in which everyone scores and so measures not only the quality but also the depth of a track team. Great work in an outstanding 2025 season."

Gobles track girls qualify several for state

4x800 Relay L-R Libby Smith, Zoie Wood, Cooley, Shaffer.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles Tigers got up early to travel to New Buffalo for the Regional Championships last Saturday.

"Overall the ladies had a great day and brought home medals in all but one of the 17 events," coach Andrew Wood said. "We qualified for the state meet in six individual events and all four relay teams. Sasha Doll started off the scoring for the day with a Regional Championship High Jump of five feet even. Libby Smith also scored in the high jump with an eighth place finish. The 4x800 relay team of Zoie Wood, Libby Smith, Madison Cooley, and Lauren Shaffer was next to score with an upset win over conference foe Kalamazoo Hackett.

"Scoring points in the field events were Ellie Wood eighth in shot put and seventh in discus. Elizabeth Smith had a huge PR and third place finish in the discus. Scoring in the pole vault were Zoie Wood in third and Addy Pangle in sixth. Elizabeth Smith came in fourth in the 100 meter dash, Cooley was fourth in the 200 meter Dash and third in the 400 meter dash, Shaffer was third in the 800 meter run, Libby Smith was third in the 1600 meter run finished eighth in the 3200 meter run and sixt e state meet in a second event."

All 4 relay teams qualified for the State Finals at the end of the month. The 4x100 Relay team of Olivia Platt, Ellie Wood, Sasha Doll and Elizabeth Smith finished third. The 4x200 Relay team of Platt, Ava DeYoung, Doll, and Elizabeth Smith came in 2nd. The 4x400 Relay team of Ellie Wood, Shaffer, DeYoung and Cooley finished off the scoring for the day with a third place.

Paw Paw girls beat Mattawan

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's softball team is 28-2 after two wins on Saturday including a 6-5 edging of Mattawan.

Paw Paw also beat Wayland 11-4. Paw Paw lost to Unity Christian 12-0.

For Paw Paw against Mattawan, it came down to the wire.The game was tied 5-5 in the bottom of the seventh when an error scored the winning run for the Wolves.

Lauren MacKellar earned the pitching win over Mattawan. She gave up no runs on no hits in one inning. Cami VanderMeeen was the starting pitcher and gave four hits and five runs in six innings, striking out two.

Kyleigh Mason took the loss for Mattawan She went 5.2 innings allowing six runs on nine hits, striking out four and walking three.

Paw Paw had 10 hits. VandrMeeden had two RBIs and two hits. Alisha Edson and Bella Clemons both also had two hits for Paw Paw.

Grace Slyker, Penelope Cross, Haley Lhaman and Camryn Jilek had one hit apiece for Mattawan. Lhamon and Jilek both had RBIs. Grace Slyker stole two bases.

Lawton softball team playing well

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON —Lawton is 10-2 in its last 12 softball games.

Kaidence Beam collected three hits to lead Lawton over Fennville 17-9 in recent action.

Beam has played two positions for Lawton. Beam's primary position is left field. Beam has driven in a run in the past three games.

She is 6-of-8 and has driven in five runs during the streak. Beam is on a 3-game hitting streak. The left fielder has hit 0.750 during the streak. Beam has an on-base percentage of 0.569 this season thanks in part to a 0.436 average and 10 walks.

Lawton has a 10-12 record overall. Aubri Conklin has a 1.364 OPS to lead the team. The catcher has a 0.648 OBP and a 0.716 slugging percentage this season. Paityn Beam leads Lawton with 53 and one-third innings pitched. Conklin leads Lawton with 121 total fielding chances this season. Conklin's primary position is catcher.

On Monday, May 19, Lawton won 12-1 and 23-10. In the first game, Allison Murphy had three hits, all singles. She also earned the pitching win with one run and five hits and eight strikeouts over eight innings.

In second game, Lily McCorry had five hits in five at ba

South Haven baseball wins divisional title

By John Raffel

SOUTH HAVEN — Charlie Morse was dominant on the bump, as the hurler rang up 10 strikeouts in South Haven's 10-2 victory over Allegan on Tuesday. Morse allowed two hits and two runs over four innings while walking none.

South Haven won thanks in part to six runs in the fifth inning. Wyatt Dotson drew a walk, scoring one run, Ryan Kozlik doubled, scoring one run, Elijah Eddy singled, scoring two runs, Morse doubled, scoring one run, and an error scored one run.

A double by Isaac Chalupa put South Haven on the board in the bottom of the first.

"This win of a suspended game locked up the outright SAC Lakeshore Divisional Championship," coach Dave McWhinnie said. "The guys have put in a lot of hard work to get where they are. This is a well deserved championship. This group of guys has been a pleasure to coach. They are a selfless group that shows up everyday to work. They are more concerned with team accomplishments than their own and that is why they have put themselves in this position. I am proud of this group."

Wyatt Dotson drove in four runs on one hit to lead South Haven Varsity Rams past Martin 14-1 on Thursday. Dotson hit a home run to center field in the second inning, scoring three runs, and walked in the fifth inning, scoring one.

South Haven got on the board in the top of the first inning after Isaac Chalupa singled, scoring one run, one run scored on a balk, Max Verseput homered to center field, scoring two runs, Ryan Kozlik doubled, scoring one run, Cooper Olney doubled, scoring one run, and Chalupa drew a walk, scoring one run.

South Haven scored three runs in the top of the second on a home run to center field by Dotson.

South Haven added one run in the third after Charlie Hiatt singled to center field on a full count.

Chalupa earned the win for South Haven. The hurler gave up two hits and one run (zero earned) over three innings, striking out six and walking none. Bryer Watson took the loss.

"The guys came out swinging today," McWhinnie said. "The ball was traveling in Martin and we took advantage of it. We had nine guys collect at least one hit in this game and two of them were home runs. Our pitchers were pounding the zone with nine strikeouts in five innings It was a good effort all around for the Rams."

Game Changer Media supplied details for this report.

Bangor baseball team sweeps Mendon

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Bangor traveled to Mendon to take on the Hornets on Saturday and picked up two more wins.

Bangor was set to be back in action Tuesday of this week at home vs the defending state champs Watervliet.

The first game was 7-3 in Bangor's favor.

Jaret McCoy got the picking win going 5.2 innings, 1 earned run, and eight strikeouts.

Seven of Bangor's nine batters got hits: Carson Mullins, Jaret McCoy, Terrance Payne, Luke Remington, Julian Pullins, Peyton Cannon and Jaxon Webb.

Game 2 feature a 13-0 Bangor win. Payne got the win going four innings, 0 ER, and strikeouts

Five batters recorded at least one hit: McCoy, Payne, Mullins, Deondre Hawkins, and Webb.

Bangor is 15-15. Another recent win was 16-1 over Eau Claire. Carson Pullins homered to right field and had two singles to lead the Eau Claire attack. Pulling was also the winning pitcher, allowing one run and five hits. Bangor had 11 hits overall with Terrence Wayne and Zach Mann contributing two apiece.

Mattawan enjoys 5-1 week

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — This week the Mattawan varsity baseball team was 5-1, beating Kalamazoo Christian, Loy Norrix twice, Chippewa Valley, and Lakeland. The lone loss came to Macomb Dakota.

Nolan Jominy and Kaden Jominy each had eight hits this week, with Houseman, Scarff, and Vrba contributing six apiece. Troy Scarff got his first two varsity home runs with two against Loy Norrix to dead center field.

"As a pitching staff we only allowed 10 earned runs all week, with an ERA of 1.99. We had 36 strikeouts led by eight from Maxx Vanantwerp and Brodey Houseman," coach Brett Vaughn said.

On Monday, Mattawan swept Battle Creek Lakeview 8-5 and 9-2,

In the first game Liam Walsh got the pitching win. He allowed five runs on six hits. At the plate, Evan Sweers, the No 9 batter, had two hits. He and Tyson Stratton had two RBIs.

In the second game, Nolan Jominey picked up the win allowing no runs and two hits over 2.2 innings. Brody Houseman, Kaden Jominy and Matthew Dumler had two RBIs apiece.In Saturday's win over Chippewa Valley, Houseman drove in four runs on two hits including a three-run homer. Mickelson was the winning pitcher for Mattawan.

In the win over Lakeland, Nolan Jominy had three singles.

Lawrence track team has big day

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — The Lawrence Tigers Track and Field team delivered a stellar performance at the MHSAA Division 4 Regional Meet held at New Buffalo, capping off a season of hard work and determination with an impressive haul of medals and top-8 finishes.

From field events to relays, the Tigers showed their depth and competitive spirit, with multiple athletes stepping up on the big stage. Their efforts paid off in a big way — not only in personal bests and podium finishes, but also in state qualifications.

Top 8 Regional Finishes:
2nd – Carolina Mancera, Discus
2nd – Hailey Camp, Long Jump
2nd – Dillon Simpson, High Jump
5th – Alexander Gardner, Long Jump
6th – Mariana Vinaja, 800 Meters
6th – Carolina Mancera, Shot Put
6th – 4x100 Meter Relay: Hailey Camp, Kaylin Leyva, Colleen McCaw, Leslie Reed
6th – 4x200 Meter Relay: Hailey Camp, Kelsey Harroun, Colleen McCaw, Leslie Reed
7th – Alexander Gardner, Shot Put
7th – Alexander Gardner, Discus
7th – Kelsey Harroun, Long Jump
7th – 4x800 Meter Relay: Aurora McQueen, Kacey Reyes, Alexa Strauch, Mariana Vinaja
8th – Dillon Simpson, 300 Meter Hurdles

The Tigers' performance was highlighted by three standout athletes who qualified for the MHSAA Division 4 State Track & Field Finals:

Carolina Mancera – Discus

Hailey Camp – Long Jump

Dillon Simpson – High Jump

Blue Horizon
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PUBLIC NOTICE

PORTER TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 9, 2025

Supervisor Oxley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present – Oxley, Bitely, Nesbitt, Packer, and Smith. Also present – Attorney Moraitis and six guests.

- Motion by Bitely with support by Packer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 12, 2025. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Smith with support by Packer to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Packer with support by Nesbitt to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Nesbitt with support by Bitely to approve the 2024/2025 quarterly budget amendments as presented. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Bitely with support by Packer to approve the paying of Interim Mechanical & Plumbing inspector(s) at $67.50 per inspection until a permanent replacement is found. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Nesbitt with support by Packer to approve the purchase of new ceiling fans for township hall, at a cost not to exceed $800. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Nesbitt with support by Packer to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Smith
Porter Township Clerk

New CCS Pub -> County: Van Buren; Mtgr: PNC Bank v. David Holzworth; Atty: Trott Law P.C. - Trott Law P.C.; 1st Pub: 5/1/2025; Atty File #: 499675L03; Insurer: (unknown)
VAN BUREN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 24-074232-CH NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE The property described below shall be sold at public auction, by an authorized sheriff/deputy sheriff or county clerk/deputy county clerk, to the highest bidder, at the Circuit Court for the County of Van Buren, on the 26th of June, 2025 at 1:00 pm, local time. On said day at said time, the following described property shall be sold: The Subject Property is situated in the Township of Porter, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and is particularly described as: Lot 26, Block 2, Sandy Beach, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 13, Van Buren County Records More commonly known as: 93140 Gravel Lake Dr., Lawton, MI 49065-8429 This notice is from a debt collector. Date of Notice: April, 21, 2025 Trott Law, P.C.
1559666

(05-01)(06-05)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in VAN BUREN County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on June 5, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Paul N. Palma and Donna Palma, husband and wife, whose address is 46627 Broadway Drive, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026, as original Mortgagors, to Bank of America, N.A., being a mortgage dated February 18, 2011, and recorded on March 21, 2011 in Liber 1547 Page 338, Van Buren County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated January 23, 2024 and recorded on January 29, 2024 in Liber 1761 Page 392, Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY-THREE AND 58/100 DOLLARS ($57,393.58). Said premises are situated in the Township of Arlington, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOTS 6 AND 7, BLOCK 13, SCOTT SHORES SUBDIVISION NO. 1, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 4 OF PLATS ON PAGE 33, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR VAN BUREN COUNTY. Street Address: 46627 Broadway Drive, Bloomingdale, Michigan 49026 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: May 8, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6479

(05-08)(05-29)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Ernest Cramer; Atty: Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. - Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A.; 1st Pub: 5/15/2025; Atty File #: 25-000354-1; Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES) AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE.
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement – Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM a.m./ p.m. on June 12, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Ernest Cramer of Van Buren County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) dated the 9th day of February, 2011, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan, on the 24th day of February, 2011, Liber 1546, Page 347, of the Van Buren County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $28,357.61 plus accrued interest at 8.75000% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Antwerp, in the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Situated in the Township of Antwerp, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN SECTION 20, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, TOWNSHIP OF ANTWERP,COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF M-119 HIGHWAY AND THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER BEING 280.88 FEET EAST OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY 99 FEET THENCE NORTHEASTERLY AT RIGHT ANGLES 132 FEET THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY PARALLEL TO SAID HIGHWAY 251.1 FEET TO THE 1/8 LINE THENCE WEST ON 1/8 LINE 201.38 FEET TO BEGINNING. ALSO, BEGINNING 99 FEET NORTHWESTERLY FROM THE INTERSECTION NORTH LINE M-119 HIGHWAY AND THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER IN SECTION 20 THENCE NORTHWESTERLY 89.15 FEET NORTHERLY AT RIGHT TINGLES 132 FEET SOUTHERLY 89.15 FEET SOUTHWESTERLY 132 FEET TO BEGINNING. Commonly known as: 62941 N M40 Highway, Lawton, MI 49065 Tax ID: 80-02-020-039-10 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: May 15, 2025 By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email: bhoen@weltman.com WWR#: 25-000354-1

(05-15)(06-05)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Marcela Tellez; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 5/22/2025; Atty File #: 523981F01; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on June 26, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Marcella Tellez and Rene Tellez
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: June 9, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 15, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $323,123.01
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 15, Hall's Subdivision, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, Page 41, Van Buren County Records.
Common street address (if any): 33207 Bernice Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9504
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: May 22, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1562128

(05-22)(06-12)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – GOBLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BID PROPOSAL
The Owner, Gobles Public Schools, will receive sealed bids for "Pre Demolition Asbestos Removal"

Please email rvilla @villaenv.com if you would like to receive bid documents.

All bids are due by no later than 30 May 2025 at 3:30 p.m.

Project & Bid Information
Hard Copies of Proposals may be mailed or delivered in person to Gobles Public Schools, 409 N. State St., Gobles, MI Attn: Jim Wisely, Superintendent. Bids must be delivered prior to the bid due date and time noted above.

In accordance with Section 1267 of the Revised School Code each bid must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Familial Disclosure Statement completed by the bidder disclosing any familial relationship between the Owner or any employee of the Bidder and any member of the District's Board of Education or the Superintendent of the District. The owner has the right to reject or accept any/all bids that are deemed in the best interest of the Gobles Public School District.

SITE INSPECTION
A pre-bid walkthrough meeting will not be held, however, contact rvilla@villaenv.com and we will arrange access. The project site is a portion of the High School/Middle School, 409 N. State Street, Gobles, MI 49055 with the scope of work included in the bid document.

BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS
Bidders submitting a Bid for this Project shall have asbestos removal qualifications as follows:

a. Shall be a reputable, recognized organization, with at least three (3) years successful experience on work of this type and scope of this project.
b. Shall have a current State of Michigan Asbestos Contractor License.
c. Shall have ample financial resources for work of this magnitude.

BID SECURITY - PERFORMANCE BONDS
Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond in an amount not less than 5% of the Bid amount and shall secure the Owner from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid by a Bidder or by failure of the successful Bidder to enter into a Contract with the Owner if his Bid is accepted by the Owner. The successful Bidder will be required to secure 100% Performance, Labor and Material bonds for this contract, from a surety company having a rating of A- or better, for the full amount of the Contract.

BID AWARDS
The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award contract to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general, to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the owner.

Help shape the future of the Township

ALMENA TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

COMMUNITY MEETING

June 4, 2025 - 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Almena Township Hall

www.almenatownship.gov

TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Pine Grove Township Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing and meeting on June 16, 2025 commencing at 6:00 p.m. at the Pine Grove Township Hall, 26520 CR 388, Gobles, MI 49055, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing regarding zoning ordinance text amendments for marine storage (commercial storage) and mini storage, with proposed revisions to Sections 5.06 C. 5.07 C, 8.13 and the proposed addition of new Section 8.06-1 Commercial Storage Buildings.

Anyone interested in reviewing the proposed zoning ordinance text amendments may contact the Township clerk via telephone or email and/ or by appointment at the Township Hall. The proposed zoning ordinance text amendments will also be available for review at the meeting. The Township Zoning Ordinance can be accessed on www.municode.com.

Written comments will be received from any interested persons by the Pine Grove Township Clerk at the Township Hall at any time during regular business hours up to the date of the hearing and may be further received by the Planning Commission at the hearing.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place.

Pine Grove Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the Pine Grove Township Clerk. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Pine Grove Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
By: Jim Kehoe, Chairman
Michelle Meert, Township Clerk pinegroveclerk@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: 26520 CR 388, Gobles, MI 49055
(269) 628-4380
www.pinegrovetownshipmi.gov

Tiki Bar offers tropical adventure cruises

by Tom Renner

South Haven has a buzzing harbor as another summer boating season is underway. One normal sight is the coming-and-going of sport-fishing craft, but another "vessel" is catching the eyes. Cruisin's Tikis, operated by Gull Lake Marine of South Haven, is being billed as a one-of-a-kind floating tiki bar offering laid-back tropical style adventure cruises on the Black River and Lake Michigan.

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

AVB Construction, LLC is preparing to make some improvements to baseball and softball fields for Mattawan Consolidated Schools. Commencement of work will begin July 2025.
AVB is performing multiple projects at Mattawan Consolidated Schools over the next 2 years.

BID INFORMATION
Bid Information is available now:
Contact Wendy Lockner for access to bidders' instructions, plans and specifications:
wlockner@avbinc.com • 860-874-9577

All bidders must supply a bid bond, a notarized statement of familiar relationship & other required affidavits found on the district website

Bids are due:
Friday, June 6th at 11:00 AM EST at the Mattawan Consolidated Schools Central Office - 56720 Murray St. Mattawan, MI 49071
(ATTN Pam Stermer, CFO)
There will be a sealed public bid opening immediately following. Late bids will not be considered.

Project Location, Schedule
Mattawan Consolidated Schools
Baseball and Softball Project Starts July 2025 – Completion September 2025

Scopes of Work Bidding
032-000 SITE IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING:
032-130 Site Concrete; 032-310 Fences and Gates; 032-800 Irrigation; 032-900 Landscaping

Notice of Public Hearing on Increasing Property Taxes

The Waverly Township Board of the Waverly Township will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.0922 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2025.

The hearing will be helf on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 7:00pm at 42114 M-43 Hwy., Paw Paw, MI, Waverly Township Hall.

The date and location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this public meeting.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 3.10% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate in not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 1.37% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:
Waverly Township
42114 M-43 Hwy.
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-1776

PORTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Porter Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 at the Porter Township Hall, 88040 M-40 Highway, Lawton, MI 49065, on **Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:30 pm.** The proposed budget will take effect July 1, 2025 and end June 30, 2026.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon adequate notice to Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk, in writing, or by calling the Township at (269) 624-4022 x-4.

This notice is published by:
PORTER TOWNSHIP
88040 M-40 HWY, LAWTON, MI 49065
269-624-4022 x-4

VAN BUREN COUNTY
Surveyor Appointment Committee
Presiding Judge of Probate Hon. Susan Metzger
County Clerk Suzie Roehm
Prosecuting Attorney Susan Zuiderveen

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT The County Surveyor Appointment Committee announces it is currently accepting applications for their consideration. The Committee comprised of the Presiding Probate Judge Susan Metzger, County Clerk Suzie Roehm, and Prosecuting Attorney Susan Zuiderveen is authorized by statute to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Charles Lossie, effective May 1, 2025.
Candidates shall be licensed as a Land Surveyor, be at least 18 years of age and registered to vote in Van Buren County. The County Surveyor's primary task is to oversee the County's Remonumentation Program. There is no annual salary for this position.
The Committee is requesting candidates send a county application, resume, and cover letter describing the applicant's specific qualifications for the appointment. The application, resume, and cover letter should be addressed to County Clerk Suzie Roehm, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste. 101, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and be submitted by June 6, 2025.

Suzie Roehm, Van Buren County Clerk May 5, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INCREASING PROPERTY TAXES

The Village Council of the Village of Lawton will hold a Public Hearing and subsequently decide on a proposed increase of .1558 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2025. The hearing will be held at the Village Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm. If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 0.93% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 2.19% over the preceding year's operating revenue. The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from withing its authorized millage rate.
The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:
Village of Lawton
125 S Main Street, Lawton MI 49065
269.624.6407

Gobles Public Schools Notice of Public Hearing On Proposed 2025-2026 Budget

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 9, 2025, at 5:45 o'clock p.m., at Gobles MS/HS Library, 409 N. State Street, Gobles, Michigan, the Board of Education of Gobles Public Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2025-2026 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2025-2026 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2025-2026 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Superintendent's Office, 409 N. State Street, Gobles, Michigan and available online at the Gobles Public Schools Website.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Susan Dalton-Akers,
Secretary

NOTICE TO WAVERLY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Waverly Township will sponsor a Two Day Clean-up for the residents of Waverly Township.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
June 6 &7 2025
FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
BOTH DAYS WAVERLY TOWNSHIP HALL
42114 M-43

Attendants will be on duty to check ID'S
You must have identification to prove you are a Waverly Township Resident

THERE WILL BE A TIRE TRAILER AVAILABLE
Will be accepting small and medium size Tractor Tires

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT:
Cement, Chemicals or Hazardous Materials, no dead animals, loose trash, shingles, medical waste, insulation or paint (unless the paint is completely dry and the lid off)

Waverly Township
Tony Millek, Supervisor
269-657-1776

CLASSIFIEDS

• HELP WANTED •

PART-TIME HELP WANTED
MILLER THERMOMETER CO.
14 S. Center Street, Hartford, MI 49057 • 269-621-3124

• WANTED •

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER.
Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

GRANT DALY PAINTING: Interior/exterior residential, commercial, industrial. Great references & free estimates. Call 657-7893.

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Almena Township to update its Master Plan

ALMENA TWP – Almena Township is currently updating its Master Plan. The community Master Plan effort is led by the Almena Township Planning Commission, and the plan guides future land use, growth, preservation, and public investment

The township is seeking input from township residents and will hold an open house, June 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Almena Township Hall, 27625 County Road 375, Paw Paw.A community survey is also being conducted. Paper copies are available at the township hall or on the website at www.almenatownship.gov

Lawrence students invite Lawrence area veterans to attend program

Lawrence - The Lawrence PTO and Lawrence Elementary School invite all Lawrence area veterans to attend a program that will include patriotic music poems and readings by elementary and high school students, Friday, May 23, at 2 p.m.

Prior to the event, there will be light refreshments for the veterans and their families in the elementary cafeteria from 1:30 to 2 p.m.

VFW, DDA install 27 banners in Paw Paw

The Paw Paw Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2532 recently undertook a project with the Paw Paw Downtown Development Authority to install 27 banners of VFW Past Commanders and others throughout posts in downtown Paw Paw. Placement of the banners began Monday morning, May 19. In addition to Past Commanders, six Gold Star member banners will be placed in downtown Paw Paw on the Main four corners, as well as American Legion Past Commanders, who are VFW members.

Courier-Leader photos/ Paul Garrod

Retirement and resignation create "unique circumstance" at Lawrence Public Schools

LAWRENCE - The retirement of the Lawrence Elementary School principal, combined with the resignation of the Jr.-Sr. High School principal to accept a central office position outside the district has created a unique circumstance to analyze the internal structure of the Lawrence Public Schools' administration.

LPS Superintendent Ryan Williamson said the district had been evaluating the budget and enrollment data with comparable districts (socioeconomic/demographics). "The data revealed a difference between LPS and the majority of comparable districts regarding the internal leadership structure, specifically the number of principals within the district. LPS currently has approximately 400 students, and schools with similar de-mographics and enrollment have readjusted their internal structure and maintained a level of student success with budgetary responsibility," said Williamson.

LPS will continue to focus on personalized learning (student:teacher ratio) and contining with strategies that led to success regarding the CAP Report (LES ranked No. 1 in VB County). "LPS will continually develop and adjust programming and supports for our students, staff, and parents in the classroom and community," said Williamson.

Williamson said the reason for transitioning to a K-12 Principal model is to ensure cotinuity and alignment of the K-12 curriculum, protecting the student:teacher ratio (persoalized learning), and provides flexibility to adjust supports to meet student and staff needs. "We're excited about the direction we're heading, with a continued focus on personalized learning and the incredible efforts of our staff to individualize instruction. We're also proud of the many supports in place to help our students succeed," said Williamson.

Suicide Awareness walk held in Paw Paw

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. (AGSM) held its third Military Suicide Awareness Walk-A-Thon, Sunday, May 18. The walk began and ended at Maple City Veterans Memorial Park, Paw Paw.

Photo courtesy/Paul DeYoung

VBGOP provides diapers for those in need

When Van Buren GOP (VBGOP) heard about the diaper shortage for families in need, they pulled together a diaper drive collection spot. All donations were delivered to United Christian Services, Paw Paw. Shown in the photo are Doug Nelson, VBGOP Chair, Executive Committee members John and Robyn Young, VBGOP Vice Chair Matt Nilson, former Precinct Delegate Ron Reisterer, and John Heidema, precinct delegate.

Photo courtesy/ Van Buren GOP

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